

The Cultural Differences

The Silent Language

By

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Acculturation (1880)

- Those phenomena which result when groups of individuals having different cultures come into continuous first-hand contact, causing changes in the original culture patterns of either or both groups
(Redfield, Linton & Herskovits, 1936)

Any ethnic group in an acculturation context are presumed to be making decisions

- About maintaining their identification with their original heritage and culture
- About continuing to have acculturative contact with other culture

This leaves unclear who is making decisions, individuals and/or minority group and/or dominant society

- Adaptations
- Feelings
- Goals
- Identities
- Modes
- Options
- orientations
- Outcomes
- Paths
- Policies
- Preferences
- Statuses
- Strategies
- Styles

ASSIMILATION

- When individuals are negative towards their heritage culture and positive towards some other cultures, then the presumption is that they must “unlearn” the norms and practices of their heritage culture and must learn and adopt those of the dominant society.

SEPARATION

- When individuals are positive towards their heritage culture and negative towards other cultures, then they are said to prefer Separation.

INTEGRATIONIST & MARGINALIZATION

- When individuals are positive towards their heritage culture and towards some other cultures, then they are presumed to prefer "the INTEGRATIONIST" or bicultural acculturation strategy.
- When individuals are negative towards their heritage culture and towards other cultures, then they are said to experience MARGINALIZATION (De-culturation).
- Marginalization also entails "confusion and anxiety... feelings of alienation, loss of identity (acculturative stress)."

The research paradigm presumes a causal chain of events:

- 1. An acculturation context of mixed groups, one dominant over the other, causes the weaker group to experience marginalization (Berry, 1970).
- 2. Marginalization causes them to question themselves about continuing intercultural contact (culture maintenance).
- 3. Answers to these questions cause one of the four acculturation attitudes to be largely adopted.
- 4. The acculturation attitudes cause behavioral strategies to be devised
- 5. Finally, the paradigm presumes that this causal chain can be studied by means of correlation between the psychometrics of acculturation attitudes and measures of psychological distress.

CULTURE

- The culture of a group of people consists of patterns (explicit and implicit) of acquired behavior which are transmitted from one generation to the next through symbols and objects.
- The culture's different accomplishments then establish the basis for its tradition, the elaboration of its language, and the evolution of its art and music.
- Complex integration of knowledge, attitudes and skills that enhances cross-cultural communication and appropriate/effective interactions with others (AMA)

CULTURAL PROFICIENCY

- Culture is held in high esteem.
- Acceptance and respect for difference, continuing self-assessment, attention to the dynamics of difference, expansion of cultural knowledge, adaptation of programs to better meet the needs of minority population.
- Complex integration of knowledge, attitudes and skills that enhances cross-cultural communication and appropriate/effective interactions with others.

CONTRASTING PATTERNS

In
Nonverbal
Communication

GENERAL CULTURE

ANGLO-SAXON

- Fast changes
- Less conservative
- Child's active attitude
- Nuclear family
- Teachers teach how to face reality in life

LATINO

- Slow changes
- Very conservative
- Child's passive attitude
- Extended family
- Teachers overprotect as parents

INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

ANGLO-SAXON:

- Children can look directly at other people, but when rebuked, they have to look at the rebuker's eyes

LATINO:

- Children can look directly at other people, but when rebuked, they have to look down

INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIP

ANGLO-SAXON:

LATINO:

● Physical touch is uncommon, unless the other person is a close friend.

■ Physical touch is very common. It means friendship or equality

INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIP

ANGLO-SAXON:

- Expression of emotions is very limited.
- Laughing means joy.
Crying means sadness.
- Think logically and get to the point.
- Can do only one thing at a time.

LATINO:

- Express emotions freely. People who don't are perceived as insensitive.
- Laughing and crying, both can mean the same.
- Getting directly to the point is considered rude.
- Can do several things at the same time.

TIME

ANGLO-SAXON:

- The future is very important.
- The past is of little importance.
- Times flies.

LATINO:

- The past is very important.
- Forget about the future.
- Time passes.

TIME

ANGLO SAXON:

- Punctuality is very important. Someone who is not punctual is rude.
- Appointments and activities are scheduled in advance, sometimes even weeks or months early.
- Meetings have an agenda

LATINO:

- If a person is punctual, he/she is a flatterer.
- Sometimes just a few minutes before is enough.
- Meeting agendas are very flexible.

TIME

ANGLO-SAXON:

- To be five minutes late for an appointment is reasonable.
- More than five is an insult
- Working time is just that.

LATINO:

- To be twenty minutes late is very reasonable.
- Working time can be used to call friends, make appointments, etc..

CONTRASTING PATTERNS IN VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS

ANGLO-SAXON:

- Clocks run.
- I missed the bus.
- I dropped it.
- I lost it.

LATINO:

- Clocks walk.
- The bus left me.
- It fell from me.
- It lost itself.

CONTRASTING PATTERNS IN VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS

ANGLO-SAXON:

- I broke it.
- I'll do my best.
- I forgot to bring it.

LATINO:

- It broke itself.
- If God permits.
- It was left behind.

SEVEN BASIC PRINCIPLES

- 1.- Team Spirit
- 2.- Sense of Assistance and Belonging
- 3.- Image of the Leader
- 4.- Sense of Urgency and Importance
- 5.- Sense of Community
- 6.- The Perspective of Success
- 7.- The Value of Money

1.- TEAM SPIRIT

- The Anglo-Saxon culture values individualism and independence over "team spirit."
- The Latin culture understands interrelation to be possible when closely connected individuals live together, whether under the same roof or in the same city.

2.- Sense of Assistance and Belonging

- Anglo-Saxon concept of assistance is based on principles of self-determination and self-improvement.
- Latin concept of assistance is based on long-term restoration that overcomes deficiencies
- A “push to get started” is acceptable assistance.
- Expects to be “connected” until able to make it on his own.

2.- SENSE OF ASSISTANCE AND BELONGING II

- The sense of belonging is conceptual. It can help the individual develop his/her self-determination without interfering with the person's social or spiritual independence

3.- IMAGE OF THE LEADER

- Anglo culture is basically independent; the value of the individual is measured by accomplishment attained through individual effort.
- Rigid leadership is not accepted
- The Latin style of leadership is one of imposition: absolute rulers.

4.- SENSE OF URGENCY AND IMPORTANCE

- The Anglo culture has two basic formative elements:
 - ✓ System
 - ✓ Evaluation
- The individual does not act impulsively, but with a purpose and objective.
- The Latin culture has very different formative elements and emotional characteristics.
- The individual tends to act impulsively; without previous thought or preparation.

5.- SENSE OF COMMUNITY

- In the Anglo culture, a group of individuals can work on a project if two or more people reach an understanding or agreement.
- The Hispanic needs more than a simple agreement in order to be open to friendship and camaraderie; he/she needs interaction, interrelation and intimacy.

6.- THE PERSPECTIVE OF SUCCESS

- For the Anglo, success is understood as reaching a goal.
- To win a battle in a war is considered a success.
- The Hispanic demands total success.
- The Hispanic will feel successful only if the war is won.

7.- THE VALUE OF MONEY

- The Anglo perceives money as an instrument used to implement ideas and obtain rewards.
- The Latino perceives money as an error or a goal. Reaching it is an important personal achievement.
- Time is money.

America is not like a blanket

One piece of unbroken cloth,
The same color,
The same texture,
The same size.

America is more like a quilt:

Many pieces, many colors, many sizes,
All woven and held together
By a common thread.